

Fun Events at Historic Jefferson College

News from Kay McNeil, images courtesy of Kelli Mitchell

Historic Jefferson College (HJC) hosted their annual Pioneer Day event where school groups can see, hear, and feel what it was like to live during frontier times in Mississippi. Volunteer Nelda Thomas greeted visitors upon their arrival.

The site had multiple stations where demonstrators weaved, played the fiddle, and made cornmeal. Also, volunteers and staff showed the children how to play with pioneer toys such as shooting marbles, Jacob's Ladder, Ball and Cup, and the Buzz Saw. On May 14 and 15, HJC was the site of the annual Great Big Yam Potatoes Old Time Music and Fiddle Contest. To hear some wonderful tunes from long ago, follow the link below and access previous performances at this great festival!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/greatbigyampotatoes1/featured>



More images on
pages 3 & 4.

Above: Jo Miles-Seely has served at MDAH as an employee and a volunteer in many roles. Most recently, her employment has been as the coordinator of the Mississippi Digital Newspaper Project and as a spinner in her volunteer service.



Above: Volunteer Gavin Norman (orange shirt) teaches the children how to shoot marbles.

Below: Volunteer Judy Wiggins demonstrates how to wash clothes in an era of no washing machines.



Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. The National Park Service has thirty-nine sites listed as National Historic Landmarks in Mississippi. Five of the thirty-nine Mississippi sites are administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Which five are they?
 - A) Old Capitol Museum, Governor's Mansion, Manship House Museum, Historic Jefferson College, and Rowan Oak
 - B) Old Capitol Building, Governor's Mansion, the Oaks, Grand Village of the Natchez, and Winterville Archaeological Park
 - C) Old Mississippi State Capitol, Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Grand Village of the Natchez, Eudora Welty House, and the Winterville Site
 - D) Old Capitol Museum, Monmouth, Eudora Welty House and Garden, Emerald Mound Site, and the Lyceum
2. According to Todd Sanders's *Mississippi History Now* article "Architecture in Mississippi from Prehistoric to 1900," vernacular architecture is a traditional form of building that reflects local environmental influences, uses locally available building materials, and is passed down from generation to generation. An example of Mississippi's vernacular architecture is:
 - A) De La Pointe-Krebs house in Pascagoula (Creole cottage)
 - B) Auburn in Natchez (Federal style suburban villa)
 - C) Rosedale in Columbus (Italianate style)
 - D) Tate County Courthouse in Senatobia (Romanesque style)
3. On October 5, 1940, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 1109 that created the Biloxi Port Commission to help with the growing war effort. Shipbuilders along the Gulf Coast were also preparing for the war effort, including Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula. In June 1940, Ingalls launched the first all-welded steel ship ever built, named the:
 - A) Delta Queen
 - B) Cutty Sark
 - C) Exchequer
 - D) Nina

Answers are on the last page.

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Save the Date: March 2–4, 2017

**The Centennial that never was...
The Bicentennial that will be...
In Gulfport, Mississippi!
Read all about it...**



<http://www.historicalsocietyofgulfport.org/the-centennial-plaza-story.html>

This will be a fabulous conference for history lovers! Sponsored by the Mississippi Historical Society
<http://www.mississippihistory.org/>

Pioneer Day at Historic Jefferson College

News from Kay McNeil, images by Kelli Mitchell



Pioneer Day brings history to life with the help of volunteers!

1) Alma Ellis from the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild shows the children how textiles are made through the art of weaving.

2) Jo Miles-Seely demonstrated spinning and gave the students step-by-step instructions on how it is done.

3) Allyn Devries demonstrated weaving on her table-top loom.

4) Retired Historic Properties director and MDAH volunteer Jim Barnett taught the students about the music of the Mississippi pioneers via his fiddle.



Pioneer Day at Historic Jefferson College

News from Kay McNeil, images by Kelli Mitchell



- 1) National Park Service ranger Melissa Tynes explains the importance of herbs used in medicinal matters during frontier times...and even today!
- Volunteers 2) Marianne Raley and 3) Susan Bonnette keep the students thoroughly entertained with stories and tales of long ago.
- 4) Grand Village site director Lance Harris helped out by doing a "show and tell" on whittling.
- 5) Becky Anderson from Grand Village demonstrated how to play with frontier toys.

Education Intern Adam McAlpin Shares Filmmaking Talents

News from Claire Gwaltney, image courtesy of Adam McAlpin



"newsreels," one looking at school desegregation in Mississippi and the other at the history of military conscription. The resulting product will be two newsreels, each about 5-10 minutes, that feature historic archival film footage, and which is geared towards K-12 teachers and their students.

"Adam has done such wonderful work!" said outreach programs coordinator Dorian Randall. "He's been professional, creative, and keen on helping us provide one of our best resources for teachers."

When completed, the newsreels will be made available to teachers on the MDAH YouTube channel via a password in supplementary lesson plans and the multi-media, online format will help bring these two historical topics to life in classrooms across the state.

Since the beginning of 2016, the MDAH Museum Division Education team has been fortunate to have the filmmaking talents of intern Adam McAlpin with us. A student at Hinds Community College, Adam will ultimately graduate with multiple technical certifications revolving around film and computers. In the meantime, he is lending his unique set of skills to the department to help complete two short

ONCE UPON A TIME

Storytime at the Manship House



Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Each Thursday in July, parents and their children in grades K-4 are invited to hear a Beatrix Potter story and make a related craft.

JULY 7, 14, 21, & 28
3-4PM FREE

Reservations required.

601-961-4724 or info@manshiphouse.com

420 E. Fortification St.

Jackson, MS 39202



Free Fun event!

This year marks Beatrix Potter's 150th birthday (1866-1943). Children who attend *Storytime at the Manship House* will hear a Beatrix Potter story and make a related craft. Make reservations today!

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

News from Lance Harris, images courtesy of Becky Anderson and Lance Harris



The first day of the 28th Annual Natchez Powwow began with gourd dancing at Grand Village during the day. Due to inclement weather that night, intertribal dancing was held at the Trinity Episcopal School gymnasium.



Left: Principal chief of the Natchez Nation Hutke Fields served as the head man dancer for this year's dance. Fields is speaking with Chris Bryant of Goode, Virginia.

Winter and spring saw a flurry of activity for the volunteers of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. On Saturday, January 23, local storytellers—including Joan McLemore, Susan Bonnette, Morgan Mizell, Don Vesterse, Layne Taylor, Tema Larry, Shemeka Ware, and Rusty Jenkins—told Native American stories to listeners of all ages at the annual Eleventh Moon Storytelling held at the Grand Village.

In honor of the Natchez Tricentennial celebrations, many of the stories were those collected by John R. Swanton from Natchez descendant Watt Sam. Relatives of the Sam Family were also honored at the 28th Annual Natchez Powwow as Hutke Fields, principal chief of the Natchez Nation and grandnephew of Archie Sam, served as the head man dancer for this year's dance.

The longevity of the Natchez Powwow is a testament to the dedication of volunteer and chairman Chuck Borum with the help of Charles Zuccarro.

Jean Simonton lovingly brings the Natchez Adams County Master Gardeners to beautify the Grand Village with their green thumbs, and also with a very generous donation of boxwoods that will improve the aesthetics of the site.

Plan a visit to the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians today! The site features a reconstructed Natchez Indian house, three ceremonial mounds, and a museum. Admission is free.

Hours: Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Location: 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd, Natchez, Mississippi 39120 **Phone:** 601-446-6502

MDAH Volunteers Enjoy Helping Visitors at the Capitol

Going the extra mile means a lot!

News from Kathy Broom, image courtesy of Joy Matthews

Of the nearly 13,000 people assisted by Visitor Services during the 2016 Legislative Session, approximately 3,000 were greeted by MDAH Volunteers.

During the session, our volunteers never know who they will meet or how they can be of assistance to our guests. One day in March, a young lady named Rene Forrester and her mother approached the volunteer desk and were quite frantic. Rene was to perform at the Capitol and had forgotten her violin.

Volunteer Beth Sisson, during her first day of service, sprang into action. She thought of music stores for Rene to call. Beth also asked us (Kathy and Joy) for ideas, and Joy thought of volunteer Jane Phillips, who plays the fiddle. Joy called Jane, and she immediately drove from her Brandon home to the Capitol, arriving just in time.

Through this team effort, another violin appeared. So, as Rene's Facebook page post read, "Rene was blessed with many angels taking care of her; she ended up with two fiddles!" Rene performed beautiful music with Jane's bow and the other fiddle.

Old Capitol Museum director Lauren Miler reports that the building is currently undergoing a roof repair. MDAH is committed to preserving our state's treasures, especially the most historic building in the great state of Mississippi! →



MDAH Volunteers Jane Phillips (left) and Beth Sisson (right) share a special photo opportunity with Rene Forrester, who played an additional song, "You Raise Me Up," for us in Visitor Services after her performance.

Old Capitol Museum Gets Much-Needed Roof Repair



New Discovery at the Governor's Mansion

News from Megan Bankston



Left: Close-up of the Mansion's copy of Thomas Cole's *Dream of Arcadia*, 1850s, Hudson River School, unsigned

In January 2016, Dr. Paul Scheizer, director emeritus of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, New York, came to visit the mansion and identified a painting hanging in the State Dining Room as a copy of Thomas Cole's *Dream of Arcadia*, which was previously not listed as such in the mansion's records.

English-born in 1801, Thomas Cole later moved to America and fell in love with the landscape of Pennsylvania and Ohio. As a self-taught artist, Cole believed in bringing moral and religious meaning to his paintings. The theme of *Dream of Arcadia* is man's relationship to unspoiled nature. Cole believed that the American wilderness was beginning to disappear as a result of industrialization. Cole presents the rustic, secluded land of Arcadia in ancient Greece where people led simple, happy lives in harmony with nature.

The original painting dates to about 1838 and hangs at the Denver Art Museum. The mansion's painting is an 1850s copy from the Hudson River School. It was purchased for the mansion during the 1972-75 restoration.

Buena Lee Huff Retires



Docent Buena Lee Huff (right) retired this year. She has been volunteering at the mansion since 1992 and was given a copy of *Written in the Bricks* signed by Governor and First Lady Bryant (left). Buena Lee has assisted MDAH in numerous roles over the years—serving as a volunteer not only at the mansion, but at the Old Capitol Museum, the Eudora Welty House and Garden, the Capitol, the Mississippi History Store, and at many special events. We will miss you, Buena Lee! Image courtesy of Kelly Scrivner.



Thank you, Buena Lee! You are the best of the best!!!

2015 Docent Luncheon at the Governor's Mansion

News from Megan Bankston



First Lady Deborah Bryant hosted a luncheon honoring the wonderful docents of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion on Monday, December 7, 2015. The mansion's gold china was placed on festively-adorned tables surrounded by the Christmas decorations in the State Dining Room and Gold Parlor.

Each docent received a Christmas ornament from the First Lady. This year's ornament was a cross with a magnolia bloom made by Hinkle Creek Pottery. Mansion chef Matt Huffman prepared a delicious two-course meal.

At the luncheon, the retirement of docent Buena Lee Huff was announced. Also recognized were the docents who worked the most during 2015. Joyce Huskey came in first with 99 hours. Steve Kelly was second with 96 hours, and Luran Buchanan was third with 85 hours. The following docents worked 50 or more hours—Pauline Akers, Jean Clarkson, Tom Watts, Bernie Lieb, Carolyn Clements, Judy Lacy, and Janis Roberts. Together, the mansion docents worked a total of 1,341 hours in 2015!

* * * * *



Docents who worked the most hours at the mansion: (L-R) Steve Kelly, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Joyce Huskey. Not pictured: Luran Buchanan. Image courtesy of Kelly Scrivner.



The tables set for the 2015 Mansion docent luncheon. Image courtesy of Megan Bankston

Eudora Welty House and Garden: CELEBRATE!

News and images from Maggie Stevenson

"CELEBRATE!" has been the theme over at the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG) during the months of April, May and on into June! The week of April 9-16 marked the tenth anniversary of the EWHG opening and we celebrated in grand style.

The weekend kicked off with our first 2nd Saturday opening with Patti Carr Black leading a special program about "Other Places," an exhibit of Welty's photographs now hanging in the Education and Visitors Center.

Sunday, we hosted the Scholastic Writing Award Ceremony, and our volunteers helped with the reception and tours of the house for the winners and their families. Tours were free that week and hundreds took advantage to come to the EWHG.

Wednesday, students from Rosa Scott School toured the house and celebrated Welty's birthday with cake and a clever sentence game on the side porch.

Thursday evening we hosted a Pop-up Art Show where local artists displayed mosaics, paintings, block prints and even some "Eudora Rocks," all inspired by Welty. It was a huge success and hopefully will become an annual event!

The Cereus Weeders braved the rain Friday morning and our annual Plant Sale was underway and daylilies were flying out the door! It was a whirlwind! Huge thanks go out to all our volunteers!

EWHG Tour Schedule

Tuesdays – Fridays: 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.

Second Saturdays: 9 and 11 a.m.

On the thirteenth of the month, if the EWHG is open for regular tours, then tours are free!



Volunteers Steve Kelly and Julianne Summerford greet the Rosa Scott students who visited the site.



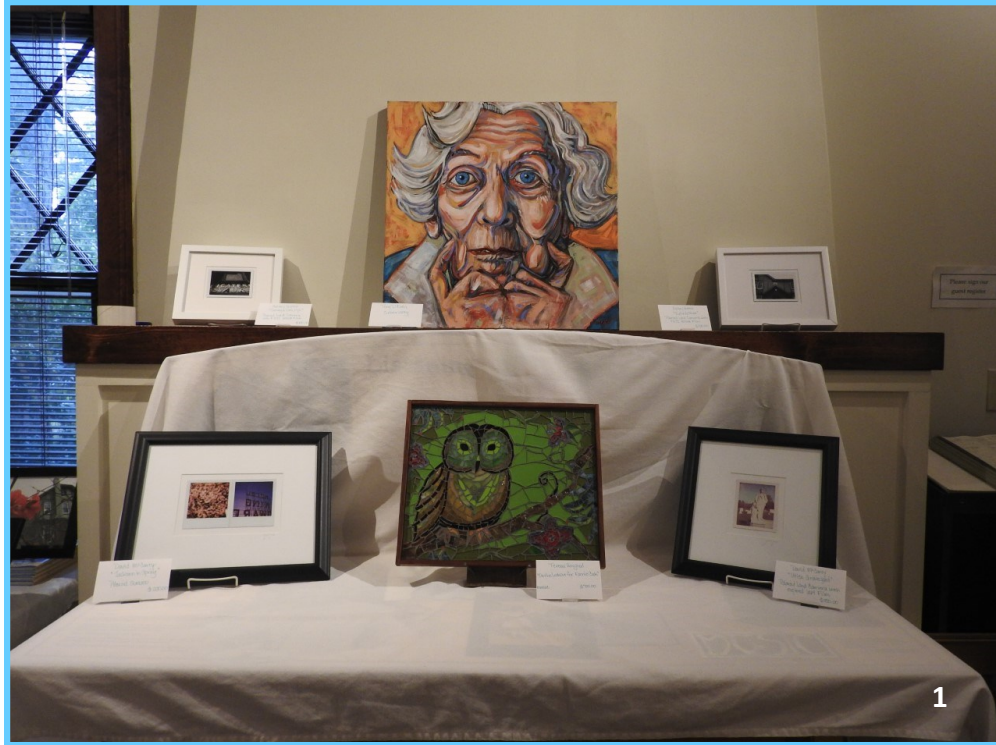
Cereus Weeders Ann Rueff, Retta Boyd, and Farrell Tadlock make sure that the Plant Sale is a success!

Eudora Welty House and Garden: Celebrate!

News and images from Maggie Stevenson

The Pop-up Art Show included:

- 1) photographs by Ashely Gates (top level); Welty portrait by Tony DiFatta; photographs by David McCarty (lower level), and an owl mosaic by Teresa Haygood.
- 2) Welty action figure by Rebecca Wilkinson.
- 3) Welty mosaic by Teresa Haygood.



Celebrating 10 years!!!



Eudora Welty House and Garden: The Optimist's Daughter

News and images from Maggie Stevenson

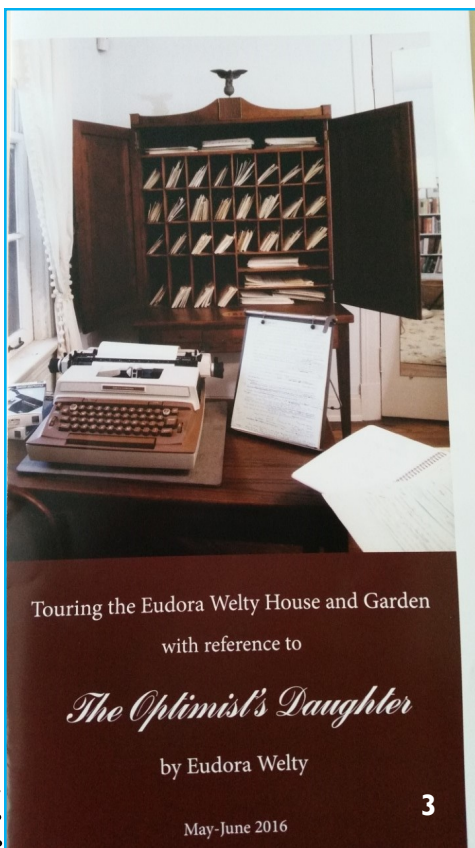


1) Welty scholar and volunteer Dr. Suzanne Marrs provides training to the EWHG volunteers.

2) EWHG volunteers enjoy enrichment session.

3) Special pamphlet now offered to visitors with *The Optimist's Daughter* focus.

New brochure available to visitors.



Touring the Eudora Welty House and Garden
with reference to
The Optimist's Daughter
by Eudora Welty
May-June 2016

Eudora Welty was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel *The Optimist's Daughter* on May 7, 1973. This year marks the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize.

As part of the Pulitzer Prize's Centennial Campfire Initiative, the EWHG and the Eudora Welty Foundation are spotlighting *The Optimist's Daughter* with tours and programs during the months of May and June.

On April 18, EWHG volunteers came for a lunch and training, led by Suzanne Marrs, about the artifacts in the Welty House, Education and Visitors Center (EVC), and garden that Welty references in the novel. Visitors will receive a pamphlet with quotes from the book about these artifacts—the Haviland china, the Plantation desk, and a set of Dickens—just a few examples.

Of course, we are telling the story of Welty's Pulitzer, which was found in a box in the sitting room closet!

Winterville Mounds: The Mississippi Mound Trail Officially Opens!



From left, MDOT Southern District Commissioner Tom King, Representative John Hines, MDOT Central District Commissioner Dick Hall, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians representative Ken Carleton, MDAH chief archaeologist Pam Lieb, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma representative Ryan Spring, Chickasaw Nation representative C. Brady Davis, MDAH director Katie Blount, Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons, and MDOT Northern District Commissioner Mike Tagert at the Mississippi Mound Trail opening ceremony held at Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park.

Partnering Agencies of the Mississippi Mound Trail recently held its opening ceremony at Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park.

The trail stretches from Desoto County to Wilkinson County and follows the Highway 61 corridor, highlighting earthworks built at thirty-three sites. Four of these sites—Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Pocahontas Rest Area and Welcome Center, Winterville Mounds, and Emerald Mound on the Natchez Trace Parkway—are state and federally operated and open to the public.

Many of the mound sites are privately owned and are included in the trail through the goodwill of the current landowners. These particular sites are not open to the public and visitors are asked to stay on pull-offs for viewing.

The Mississippi Mounds Trail is a joint project of MDAH, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, office of State Aid Road Construction, Federal Highway Administration, private landowners, respective engineers and boards of supervisors, and local Native American tribes, including the

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Chickasaw Nation, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

Follow Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Winterville-Mounds/113176502070391>

Manship House Museum: The New Southern Victorian Kitchen Garden

News and images from Marilynn Jones

Right: Food aficionado Jeff Klingfuss presented another engaging program at the Manship House Museum on Thursday, May 12.

Attendees learned about popular herbs and plants in Victorian kitchen gardens and how to grow them, were given recipes using herbs, and received cuttings of mint, rosemary, and thyme to start their own kitchen gardens.

Jeff provided excellent handouts, followed by refreshments of mint tea, rosemary bread, and tea cakes made from a nineteenth-century recipe.

Many thanks to Jeff for an excellent program!



Coming soon...

Storytime at the Manship House Museum

See details on page 5.

Manship House Museum Visitors Center Back Porch Repair Project Begins



Left: The first phase of Visitors Center repairs is now underway. This phase of work will focus on the back porch area and includes repairing and leveling of the back porch, improved drainage and lighting, and replacement of deteriorated wood on the eaves and half-wall porch enclosure.

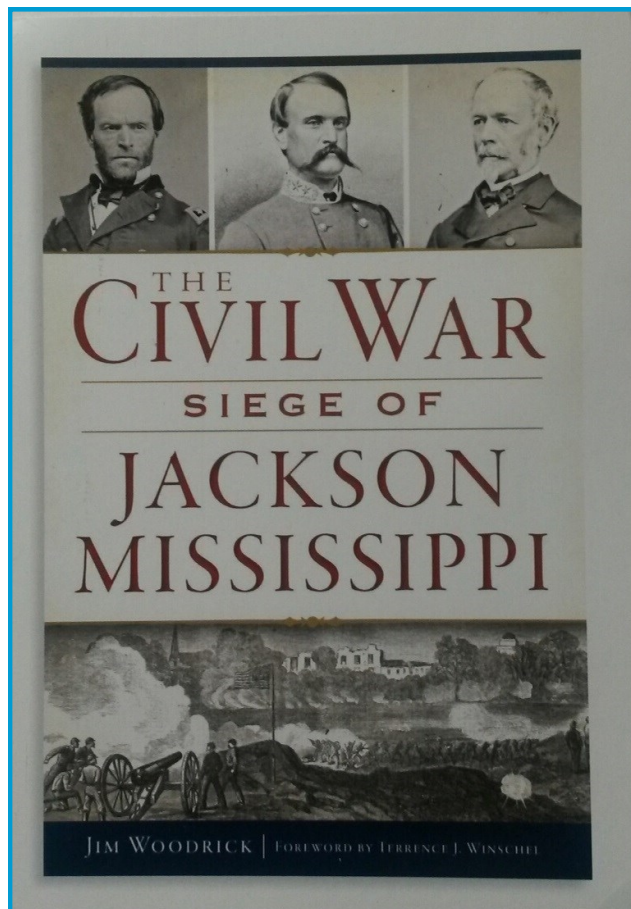
Once this phase of work is completed, our goal is to continue with the repair and weatherproofing of the Visitors Center exterior.

Mississippi History Store News

News and images from Rebecca Jones



Check out the beautiful new EWHG ornaments—they come in three different woods—oak, maple, and cherry. They come gift boxed, too! Available at the EWHG store location.



New Jackson book available at the Old Capitol Museum.



Image courtesy of
Laney Grantham

The new **Mississippi History Store** will open in December 2017 with the **Museum of Mississippi History** and the **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum** in downtown Jackson. We look forward to welcoming the MDAH volunteers and friends old and new as we prepare for this huge event. The Volunteer Newsletter will keep you up to date on the latest news as the opening date draws nearer.

While waiting on the Mississippi History Store to open, you can still use your 15% MDAH volunteer discount when shopping at the Eudora Welty House and Garden Gift Shop and at the Old Capitol Museum Shop.

The next time you are in the Belhaven area, stop in and check out the beautiful new Eudora Welty House and Garden ornaments. These come in your choice of three different woods: oak, maple and cherry, and are gift boxed. This ornament truly captures the unique exterior of Eudora Welty's home place.

The Old Capitol Museum Shop recently received the new book by Jim Woodrick, *The Civil War Siege of Jackson, Mississippi*. Woodrick is the director of the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH and has signed copies of his book. Remember that all purchases support these historic sites and their programs.

If you have questions or comments regarding the new Mississippi History Store, please contact Rebecca Jones, Store Manager, at storemanager@mdah.ms.gov or leave a phone message by calling 601-576-6921.

Stennis Honored with Mississippi Historical Marker

News and image from Brother Rogers



From left, Jim Woodrick, MDAH; Elbert Hilliard, MDAH director emeritus; Margaret Stennis Womble, daughter of John C. Stennis; Brother Rogers, Mississippi Historical Society president; and Rex Buffington, Stennis Center for Public Service, executive director

The late U.S. Senator John C. Stennis was recently honored with the unveiling of a state historical marker placed at the Kemper County Courthouse in DeKalb. Mississippi Historical Society president Brother Rogers shared the following about this special day: "One highlight was that Margaret Womble invited us to eat lunch at her house, which is the only house Senator Stennis ever owned in Mississippi. It was built in 1930. In that house, she and Mr. Hilliard and the others told great stories from history. For a history lover and novice like me, I was glad just to be a fly on the wall."

Long ago, the Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) helped to create MDAH, and we are fortunate to have MHS volunteers such as Brother Rogers and Elbert Hilliard galvanizing history lovers everywhere!

To see the MDAH
Calendar of Events

Lots to do, people to see, places to go...

Click the link below.

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/category/events-category/>

Bulletin Board

Answers

Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. C) Old Mississippi State Capitol, Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Grand Village of the Natchez, Eudora Welty House, and Winterville Site
2. A) De La Pointe-Krebs house in Pascagoula (Creole cottage)
3. C) Exchequer

MDAH Volunteer Newsletter

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Katie Blount, director



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources.